



WORLD MARITIME DAY 2006 CELEBRATED AT IMLI

The International Maritime Law Institute celebrated today World Maritime Day 2006, with the ceremony presided over by the Honorable Censu Galea, Minister for Competitiveness and Communications, Malta.

At the start of the ceremony, Prof. David Attard, Director of IMLI, conveyed to the students a message from the Secretary General of the International Maritime Organization, Efthimios Mitropoulos.



The Honorable Censu Galea with the students of IMLI 2006-2007

The Secretary General congratulated the students for their choice to join the ranks of so many others who serve the world through shipping. *“You have already made a difference by being selected, against very strong competition, to attend the 18th IMLI*

course programme. Your presence at the Institute marks you out as individuals with potential, the ability and determination to make a constructive impact on our world in the future."

In his reference to the theme of World Maritime Day, the Secretary General stated: *"Six years ago, the adoption of the Millennium Declaration by the General Assembly of the United Nations was a defining moment for global co-operation in the 21st century. The Declaration sets out, within a single framework, the key challenges facing humanity at the threshold of a new millennium; outlines the response the world community should provide to these challenges; and establishes concrete measures for judging performance.*

"IMO's work strongly supports certain of the Millennium Development Goals and will contribute substantively to the delivery of the 2005 World Summit Outcome. In particular, the Organization's technical co-operation activities make a valuable contribution to the UN's wider goals by promoting sustainable development, human resource development and capacity-building. Although IMO adopts international shipping regulations, it is the responsibility of Governments to implement those regulations. IMO's technical co-operation programme is, therefore, designed to assist Governments that lack the technical knowledge and resources needed to oversee a shipping sector successfully.

"Thus, by fostering capacity-building in the maritime sector, IMO's technical co-operation activities help countries to ensure safe, secure and effective shipping services and protect their waters and coasts from the environmental degradation that can be caused by ships and related maritime activity.

"In a changing world, there are numerous opportunities for those who have the motivation and the strength to make a positive contribution, and I am sure that your time in IMLI will help prepare you to play your part. I am confident that you will soon take up that mantle with diligence and with ability and that, as a student body, you will go on to play a positive and constructive role in the global maritime community in the future."

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